



Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk (860)441-6640
Town Manager
(860)441-6630

Meeting Minutes

Town Council

Mayor Harry A. Watson, Councilors Heather Sherman Bond, Kathryn M. Brown-Tracy, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Rita M. Schmidt, Paulann H. Sheets, and James L. Streeter

Tuesday, November 18, 2008

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Harry Watson.

Members Present: Mayor Watson, Councilor Brown-Tracy, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Schmidt and Councilor Sheets

Members Absent: Councilor Bond and Councilor Streeter

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent, Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox, and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Mayor Watson.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2008-0278 Proclamation Honoring Dot McLaughlin

Read

The proclamation was read by Councilor Brown-Tracy.

2008-0279 Proclamation Recognizing Tyler Gene James

Read

The proclamation was read by Councilor Monteiro.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

b. Administrative Items

2008-0276 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

George Marshall - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Ledge Light Health District - \$55.23 - Social Services Discretionary
Various Donations - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
City of Groton Matching Funds - \$751.44 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
United Way of Southeastern Connecticut - \$158.31 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Vera Leavy - \$50.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous
Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts Program - \$1,000.00 - Library Discretionary

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2008-0268 Groton Education Foundation Grant

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2008-0269 Adoption of 2009 Group I Regular Meeting Schedule

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2008-0270 Adoption of 2009 Group II Regular Meeting Schedule

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2008-0271 Adoption of 2009 Committee of the Whole Regular Meeting Schedule

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2008-0272 Adoption of 2009 Town Council Regular Meeting Schedule

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2008-0280 Children First Groton (CFG) Grant

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2008-0285 Appointment of Richard Semeraro to Library Board

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Mayor Watson, seconded by Councilor Monteiro, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.

The motion carried unanimously

VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

a. Town Councilors

Mayor Watson attended a meeting regarding the five-year plan for the Parks and Recreation Department, a Rapid Watershed Assessment meeting, and an Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra performance. He was also present at a Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority meeting, and toured the Aquarion water facility in Stonington.

Councilor Sheets received a call urging the Town not to consider a possible land acquisition outlined in a recent report and, due to these difficult times, the caller also suggested suspending the Senior Center project. She received a call requesting that the southern entrance of the Mortimer Wright Preserve remain open. If closed, this would block passage from the Mortimer Wright Preserve to the Haley Farm trail system for horseback riders. Councilor Sheets also attended the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra performance.

Councilor Kolnaski attended the Libation Ceremony at Fort Griswold, a Ledge Light Health District Finance Committee meeting, and a regular Ledge Light Health District meeting. She received a call from a citizen requesting information regarding the final disposition of the statue of John Mason. The Town Manager replied that after a one-year study, the statue was relocated to Windsor, Connecticut. Councilor Kolnaski reminded everyone that the joint Town Council/Board of Education/RTM Liaison Committee meeting will be November 19, 2008.

Councilor O'Beirne received an email requesting that the budget be reduced further than a \$0 increase, and a call regarding the high cost for special education. Councilor O'Beirne requested that the Town Manager provide a status report to the Council for the Mystic Streetscape Project.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

The RTM voted to move its meetings to the Town Hall Annex Community Room 1 while the Senior Center is being renovated. They have also changed the meeting day to the third Wednesday of

each month.

c. Clerk of the Council

The Town Clerk stated that the notice of public hearing for Senior Tax Relief was published in The Day on November 18, 2008. She also noted that DEP is instituting a new sporting license system that utilizes touch-screen terminals and eliminate the carbon paper licenses. Due to this change there will be a decrease in Town Clerk revenues.

2008-0291 RTM Reapportionment

RTM REAPPORTIONMENT

The Town Clerk stated that every four years, following a Presidential election, the RTM needs to be reapportioned based on the registered voters in each district. She requested a referral to the Committee of the Whole.

d. Town Manager

The Town Manager stated that there will be a meeting on November 19, 2008, to discuss the Airport Master Plan. Two special Committee of the Whole meetings have been scheduled for budget discussions on November 22, 2008, and December 6, 2008. The Town Manager mentioned that the RTM will have Ad Hoc Budget Committee meetings on November 24, 2008, and December 3, 2008, that will be very similar to the Council's budget efforts with discussions specific to programs and activities. Mr. Oefinger stated that there will be a joint Board of Education/Town Council meeting on December 1, 2008, to discuss the budget and the current status of schools. The Holiday Lights Parade will take place on December 6, 2008. The Town Manager mentioned the Adopt-a-Sailor program, where families open their home on Thanksgiving to Navy personnel and asked that those interested contact the Parks and Recreation Department.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Brown-Tracy

No meeting, no report.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Bond

No meeting, no report.

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski

No meeting, no report.

d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Sheets

No meeting, no report.

e. Finance - Chairman Schmidt

No meeting, no report.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman O'Beirne

Councilor O'Beirne read the minutes of the meeting held on November 12, 2008, which are on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Streeter

No meeting, no report.

h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Monteiro

No meeting, no report.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Watson

The Committee of the Whole discussed two grants, meeting schedules for the upcoming year, and a

trails project on the Mortimer Wright Preserve.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. NEW BUSINESS

2008-0268 Groton Education Foundation Grant

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE GROTON
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

WHEREAS, the Groton Educational Foundation provides “mini-grants” to fund unique projects based on ideas from teachers or other educators in Groton, and

WHEREAS, the Groton Senior Center and Claude Chester Elementary School annually engage students and seniors in mutual educational experiences, and

WHEREAS, grant funds could be used for an intergenerational program called “For a Greener Groton,” now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger or his designee may apply for a grant of \$505 from the Groton Educational Foundation

A motion was made by Councilor Schmidt, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

A motion to approve Resolutions 2008-0269 Adoption of 2009 Group I Regular Meeting Schedule, 2008-0270 Adoption of 2009 Group II Regular Meeting Schedule, 2008-0271 Adoption of 2009 Committee of the Whole Regular Meeting Schedule, and 2008-0272 Adoption of 2009 Town Council Regular Meeting Schedule was made by Mayor Watson, seconded by Councilor Schmidt and so voted unanimously.

2008-0269 Adoption of 2009 Group I Regular Meeting Schedule

RESOLUTION APPROVING 2009 GROUP I COMMITTEES REGULAR MEETING
SCHEDULE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby approves the Group I Committees regular meeting schedule for 2009 as follows:

Tuesday, January 13, 2009
Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Tuesday, February 10, 2009
Tuesday, February 24, 2009

Tuesday, March 10, 2009
Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Tuesday, April 14, 2009
Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Tuesday, May 12, 2009
Tuesday, May 26, 2009

Tuesday, June 9, 2009
Tuesday, June 23, 2009

Tuesday, July 14, 2009

Tuesday, July 28, 2009

Tuesday, August 11, 2009

Tuesday, August 25, 2009

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Tuesday, November 10, 2009

Tuesday, November 24, 2009

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Tuesday, December 22, 2009

All meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. in Community Room 3, Town Hall Annex, 134 Groton Long Point Road, on the Second and Fourth Tuesday of each month.

A motion was made by Mayor Watson, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0270

Adoption of 2009 Group II Regular Meeting Schedule

RESOLUTION APPROVING 2009 GROUP II COMMITTEES REGULAR MEETING
SCHEDULE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby approves the Group II Committees regular meeting schedule for 2009 as follows:

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Tuesday, April 14, 2009

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Tuesday, May 26, 2009

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Tuesday, June 23, 2009

Tuesday, July 14, 2009

Tuesday, July 28, 2009

Tuesday, August 11, 2009

Tuesday, August 25, 2009

Tuesday, September 8, 2009
Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Tuesday, October 13, 2009
Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Tuesday, November 10, 2009
Tuesday, November 24, 2009

Tuesday, December 8, 2009
Tuesday, December 22, 2009

All meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. in Community Room 1, Town Hall Annex, 134 Groton Long Point Road, on the Second and Fourth Tuesday of each month.

A motion was made by Mayor Watson, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0271

Adoption of 2009 Committee of the Whole Regular Meeting Schedule

RESOLUTION APPROVING 2009 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby approves the Committee of the Whole regular meeting schedule for 2009 as follows:

Tuesday, January 13, 2009
Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Tuesday, February 10, 2009
Tuesday, February 24, 2009

Tuesday, March 10, 2009
Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Tuesday, April 14, 2009
Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Tuesday, May 12, 2009
Tuesday, May 26, 2009

Tuesday, June 9, 2009
Tuesday, June 23, 2009

Tuesday, July 14, 2009
Tuesday, July 28, 2009

Tuesday, August 11, 2009
Tuesday, August 25, 2009

Tuesday, September 8, 2009
Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Tuesday, October 13, 2009
Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Tuesday, November 10, 2009

Tuesday, November 24, 2009

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Tuesday, December 22, 2009

All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. in Community Room 1, Town Hall Annex, 134 Groton Long Point Road, on the Second and Fourth Tuesday of each month.

A motion was made by Mayor Watson, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0272

Adoption of 2009 Town Council Regular Meeting Schedule

RESOLUTION APPROVING 2009 TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby approves the Town Council regular meeting schedule for 2009 as follows:

Tuesday, January 6, 2009

Tuesday, January 20, 2009

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Tuesday, February 17, 2009

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Tuesday April 7, 2009

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Tuesday, May 5, 2009

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

Tuesday, July 7, 2009

Tuesday, July 21, 2009

Tuesday, August 4, 2009

Tuesday, August 18, 2009

Tuesday, September 1, 2009

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Tuesday, October 6, 2009

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

Wednesday, November 4, 2009*

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

All meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. in Community Room 1, Town Hall Annex, 134 Groton Long Point Road, on the First and Third Tuesday of each month, except as noted.

*Moved to Wednesday because of Election Day on November 3, 2009.

A motion was made by Mayor Watson, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0280

Children First Groton (CFG) Grant

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO APPLY TO CHILDREN FIRST GROTON FOR PARENTING PROGRAM FUNDS

WHEREAS, parenting programs provide basic skills and support to families, and

WHEREAS, Groton Human Services, via its Family Support Center, has the capacity to offer parenting programs to Groton families, and

WHEREAS, Children First Groton has made grant funds available for parenting programs geared towards Groton families, now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Groton Town Council hereby authorizes the Town Manager or his designee to apply to Children First Groton for grant funding which will be utilized by Groton Human Services to conduct expanded parenting programs via its Family Support Center.

A motion was made by Councilor Schmidt, seconded by Councilor Sheets, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0285

Appointment of Richard Semeraro to Library Board

RESOLUTION APPOINTING RICHARD SEMERARO TO THE LIBRARY BOARD

RESOLVED, that Richard Semeraro, 202 High Street, Mystic, is appointed to the Library Board for a term ending 12/31/09.

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0286

Referral of Trails Project to the Inland Wetlands Agency

RESOLUTION REFERRING A TRAILS PROJECT TO THE INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY

RESOLVED, that the Town Council refers to the Groton Inland Wetlands Agency a proposal for the construction and improvement of trails in and through Town-owned property known as the Mortimer Wright Preserve

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Monteiro, that this matter be Adopted and Referred to the Inland Wetlands Agency.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0287

Referral of Trails Project to the Planning Commission Under CGS 8-24

RESOLUTION REFERRING A TRAILS PROJECT TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that the Town Council refers to the Groton Planning Commission under C.G.S. 8-24, a proposal for the construction and improvement of trails in and through Town-owned property known as the Mortimer Wright Preserve.

A motion was made by Councilor Monteiro, seconded by Councilor Sheets, that this matter be Adopted and Referred to the Planning Commission.

The motion carried unanimously

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Sheets requested the Town Clerk compile another report on the number of recent

foreclosures.

The Town Clerk replied that her staff is already in the process of compiling this data for the Weekly Status Report.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:09 p.m. was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Sheets and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Barbara Tarbox, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

Lori Watrous, Office Assistant